Please cancel Claims 24 and 54 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 51, 53, 55, 57 and 64, and add new Claim 65 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to a directory, each of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate characteristics of the content data;

extracting common text data forming common meta-data from the multiple kinds of meta-data included in the data files read in said reading step;

generating a new directory for the data files;

generating new directory meta-data for the new directory by using the common text data extracted in said extracting step; and

attaching the new directory meta-data generated in said generating step to the new directory.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

when in said searching step there is no common text data, the new directory

meta-data for the new directory is generated based on text data forming meta-data included in

most of the data files belonging to the new directory.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising

the step of:

generating another [[a]] new directory, and recording therein for data files to

which are attached meta-data which does not include the common text data used in the new

directory meta-data generated in said first generating step.

26. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

each data file includes image data, audio data, or dynamic image data.

27. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

in said attaching step, the new directory meta-data generated in said

generating step is appended to the end of the new directory data.

28. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A data processing device comprising:

reading means for reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to a directory, each of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate characteristics the content data;

extracting means for extracting common text data forming common meta-data, from the multiple kinds of meta-data included in the data files;

generating means for generating a new directory meta-data for the data files, and generating new directory meta-data for the new directory by using a the common text data extracted by said extracting means; and

attaching means for attaching the new directory meta-data generated by said generating means to the new directory.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein when said searching means finds no common text data, said generating means generates the new directory meta-data based on text data forming meta-data item included in most of the data files belonging to the new directory.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising:

second recording means for generating another [[a]] new directory [[and]] for

recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include the common

text data used in the new directory meta-data generated by said generating means.

56. (Previously presented) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

each data file includes image data, audio data, or dynamic image data.

57. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein:

said attaching means appends the new directory meta-data generated by said

generating means to the end of the new directory data.

58. to 63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently amended) A computer-readable memory medium storing a control

program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising code for performing the

steps of:

reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to an indicated

directory, each of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to

indicate characteristics of the content data;

extracting common text data forming common meta-data included in the data

files, from the multiple kinds of meta-data;

generating a new directory for the data files;

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generating <u>new</u> directory meta-data for the <u>new</u> directory by using the common

text data in said extracting step; and

attaching the <u>new</u> meta-data generated in said generating step to the <u>new</u> directory.

65. (New) A data processing device comprising:

a reading unit adapted to read multiple kinds of meta-data from data files, each of

the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate

characteristics of the content data; and

a processing unit adapted to extract common text data from multiple kinds of

meta-data included in the data files, to generate a new directory for the data files, and new

directory meta-data for the new directory by using the extracted common text data, and to attach

the generated new directory meta-data to the new directory.